

R E V I E W.

Saturday, January 3. 1712.

I Think myself obliged, at the Request of the Publisher of the Review, to begin this, with giving an Account that the frequent Interruptions of this Paper, of late, have been occasioned by a Dangerous Illness the Author has been under for some time, and as a great Distance; which, Blessed be God, being something recover'd from, he hopes there will be no more stop to the Paper: And while he is discoursing upon the Subject of Trade, several particular Cases requiring it; he purposes to publish three times a Week, as formerly, and unless he finds it disagreeable, shall continue to do so, during the Sitting of the approaching Session of Parliament.

THE Subject of Trade is so Copious, and my Thoughts are obliged to be so extensive, if I will speak of it to purpose, that I must be obliged to come out three times a Week with this Paper for some time; if it is a Burthen to you that buy, I shall slack it again when these things are over.

I began with making a few Remarks on our Trading Errors, one of which was, as I told you, Our publick discouraging the most useful parts of our Commerce: This brought me so naturally to speak of the Trade to *Africa*, our National Follies in which, stood so full in my way, that I could be no means avoid it, or avoid repeating some of the mad things that have been done by, and in behalf of, those People; who, as I said, openly push'd at the Ruin, not of the Company only, but of the Trade it self.

However, I purpos'd to speak but once, and in Course to that matter, being at a remote Distance from Things at that time; but when I come to see that the Trade to *Africa* seems to promise us some New Revolution; That the Justice and Nature of the Thing prevailing, the Creditors and the Company are at last United, I cannot excuse my self to let a Thing I have said so much of, want any Assistance, however weak, at such a Juncture as this, to let the World know what they ought to do to encourage so useful a Trade; what Advantage the Success of it will of course be to the Publick; and, how easie it will be, if the Company are not again Assassinated by Thieves and Trade-Murderers, to Restore, not the Company only, but the Trade also; and both to such a Figure as may fully answer all the great Things which have been said by me, or any Body else, on that head.

I shall not dwell on this Subject, for I never tell a long Story; but, if now and then, as your own Errors, and the Prospect of Things require it, you hear from me on this Subject; and, above all, are unsufferably reproach'd for it, if you do not your Duty on this Occasion; that is, if you do not all unanimously agree to Nurse this Newly recovered

Patient up; that so, after a deep Consumption, it may gather Strength, and be a useful Subject of the Common-Wealth of Trade: I say, if you do not do this, you will bear with my Reproaches, because of the just Reason you will have to expect them.

What is it to us, (the Nation.) who seek the general Good of Commerce, if the separate Traders are overthrown? What, That the Creditors and Company are United? And what, That an Act of Parliament is made to tye the Hands of those who would have pretended that Coalition, if all these Things are not improved to the General Good? What is it to the purpose that the Engins Play, and Water is poured upon a House on Fire, and the Fire gotten Under-foot, as we call it; if the Inhabitants do not take Care to quench the Remains, and remove the Rubbish, Rebuild, and Reinhabit, how shall the Town Recover and Flourish?

To move you to this; It is necessary to convince you of two Things,

1. That this Trade is worth encouraging.
2. That it is now standing upon the only probable Foundation that can encourage it.

Methinks, it should be no difficult Thing to convince you all of the Value of this Trade, and one General Maxim in Trade will clear the way to it, which no Man can deny, viz.

THAT TRADE which returns the most valuable Import, for the most trifling Export, must, in proportion to the Quantity, be the most profitable Trade to a Nation.

It would be writing a Panegyrick on the *African*-Trade, to enumerate the Trifles and Baubles that Purchase Gold Dust, Ivory, and Slaves.—The Truth is, the Payment on our side is hardly worth naming, unless Glass Beads, Cowries, and Trinkets are of moment.—But to come to a brief Account of the Value of the Trade, Two Things may be touch'd at, which principally recommend it.

First, *The Gold*, which is pure of their Return; The Quantity which *England* has seen of this in former times has been considerable, the Coinage at the Tower

Tower will be an unquestioned Evidence, both for the Trade, and for the Company what it has been; and it is to be hoped those Times may come again. The Dutch, who have made a Prey of our Divisions, nor can any One blame them neither, have brought Home 60000 l. at a time, in Gold from the same Coast, and that within these few Years; and they continue to do so still, and our Company, may, no doubt, do the same, if they can but enjoy an Uninterrupted Trade.

Secondly, The absolute Necessity we are in to encourage this Trade, for the support of that most Inestimable Article of the *British* Trade OUR PLANTATIONS. These can no more subsist without Negroes, than *England* could without Horses. What dull Doings would there be among us, if Providence should destroy our Horses in *England*, as it has the Oxen in *Italy*? How would the Land be Ploughed? The Carriage performed? And the Harvest brought home? The Gentlemen would Travel but very indifferently upon Mules; and the Ladies would make but a dull Figure to go a Visiting in a Coach and Six Oxen, or to Church, in a fine Chariot and Four Asses: Far worse would our Colonies be managed without Negroes; Our Planters there, would make Sugar just at the Rate that our Letters here would go Post, when the Mail was carried upon a Bullock.

Negroes are as essential to the Sugar Works at *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, &c. as Wind is to the Ships that bring it Home: All our Trade in those Colonies would be becalmed without them: But, say some, the separate Traders carried Negroes, as well as the Company. YES, YES, And that lets you into another Grievance; it is true, they did carry Negroes, but, at what Price, and how precarious the Supply? Nor, as I shall make out in its place, it is possible that while the Interloping or Separate Trading was allowed, the Plantations could be supplied with Negroes at any moderate Price; since the Rivalling one another in the Trade had reduced the Price of *English* Goods so low, and raised the first Cost of Negroes so high, that there was no remedy to make the Trade practicable, but by making the Plantations pay for it all; which, by the Way, is robbing the general Stock of the Nation to Bribe the Natives of *Africa*: This was one of the Blessed Consequences of subjecting this Trade to the Mercy of Interlopers.

If that Method had gone on, the Company had had no more to do, than to sink 20 or 30000 Pound in selling Negroes to the Plantations at an under Price; and all the separate Traders must have laid down of Course, or have broke their Backs by the Voyage; but that's over, and it is to be hoped that now, the Plantations shall have a Supply of Negroes, at a moderate Price, and may depend upon the

Certainty of a Supply, as well as upon the Rate them.

I remember the Company offered to the Parliament to come to Terms with the Government, and to oblige themselves to deliver Negroes to the Plantations at settled Prices; and the Excellence of such a Proposal, may in time come not only to appear, but to convince the World more effectually than ever they have been yet convince'd, that none but a Company can carry on this Trade.

The *Assiento* is another Article, — This we have agreed in the approaching Peace. I mean, that it shall be Ours, and that it is a valuable Article, no one doubts, if rightly managed: But let any Merchant that understands his *A B C* in Trade, tell me, How could this be carried on by separate Merchants, or embark'd in private Interests? Who would the *Spaniards* deal with, if we had no *African* Company? Who with the *South-Sea* Company, Who would the *South-Sea* Company deal with? Would the *South-Sea* Company engage in a Contract with the *Spaniards* to deliver them so many Thousand Negroes, and depend upon finding every Month, or every Year some body or other, they knew not who, to enter into Treaty with them, to make good that Agreement with the *Spaniard*? If any of which fail'd they must furnish Ships of their Own? What Absurdity would this be?

This leads me of course to say the Government must certainly Design, and have in their View along, the *African* Companies Re-establishment when they so much as talk'd of the *Assiento* to the *Spaniards*: For they could not but know, none but that Company could ever make it rational for *England* to embark in the *Assiento* for furnishing the *Spaniards* in *America* with Negroes.

This is One of the many Reasons I might give to prove how much it is the Interest of the Government to stand by the present Company, which I may enlarge upon in its place; and which I do not mention here to move them to it; but to convince the Nation, that they may be assured the Government will do so, it cannot be otherwise, if we allow the Prosperity of our Commerce is any of her Majesty's Interest and Concern, and this we have no Reason to doubt of.

E R R A T A.

Review, No. 39. p. 77. Col. 1. l. 31. for as little read a little; *ibid.* Col. 2. l. 10. for fierce Claret r. Tierce Claret; *ibid.* l. 23. Phantasm r. Prantism *ib.* l. 39. r. gotten; p. 78. Col. 1. l. 31. r. Labour People; *ib.* l. 34. r. encreases, the Necessities of Nature sink again, &c. *ib.* Col. 2. l. 4. r. Drone; *ib.* l. 41. r. restor'd by. Review, No. 40. p. 82. Col. 2. l. 30. r. Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds.